Supply of Coal to State Electricity Boards

1171. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken any decision in regard to supply of coal to State Electricity Boards only against advance payments by them;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of the Electricity Boards thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI. S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c). A number of State Electricity Boards had been making continuous default had risen to a level of over Rs. 1900 Crores as on 30.9.91. A situation was reached where it became difficult for the coal companies to continue their operations for want of funds. As such a decision had to be taken to supply coal to State Electricity Boards only against advance payments with effect from 1.10.1991. The Electricity Boards have since been making advance payments as requested by the Coal Companies.

New System for Sale of Coal by Coal India Limited

1172. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleasd to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to introduce the "CASH and CARRY " system for the sale of coal from Coal India Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be introduced; and

(c) the measure proposed to be taken to prevent misuse of the new system?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c): Under the "Case and Carry" system all consumers, including State Electricity Boards and Power Utilities, will have to pay coal price in advance, before coal is despatched to them. The scheme has been introduced with effect from 1.10.1991. In order to prevent any possible diffficulties to consumers, all Coal Companies have been advised to ensure proper weighment and quality of coal despatched to consumers.

Indo-Pak Clash in UN Over Kashmir

1173. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEHARA MURTHY:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a news item captioned " Indo-Pak Clash in UN over Kashmir" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated October 10, 1991, and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DUARDO FALEIRO): (a). Yes Sir.

(b) The news item refers to statements by Pakistan and India at the United Nations. India has categorically and effectively rebutted the allegations made by Pakisthan concerning Jammu and Kashmir.

Target of Oil Exploration for Eighth Five Year Plan

1174. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to reduce the target set for exploration of oil for the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps the Government propose to take for stepping up of production of indigenous crude;

(d) whether the Government are decided to reduce the exploration activities by the ONGC in West Bengal; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a). The Eighth Five Year Plan is still to be finalised.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A number of new projects are being implemented to augment indigenous supply of crude oil.

(d) and (e). The exploration programme in different areas will depend on the requirements and resource availability.

Ken Irrigation Project

1175. KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3972 on August 22, 1991 and state the details of steps taken by the Union Government to obtain the modified report on Ken Irrigation Project from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for the techno-economic appraisal in Central Water Commission?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): Since Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh could not reach agreement on quantum of water available at the dam site, the Central Water Commission is assisting National Water Development Agency in finalising yield of river Ken at Greater Gangau.

[*Translation*]

Allotment of Additional Natural Gas to Gujarat

1176. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allocated additional natural gas to Gujarat;

(b) if so, the quantum of natural gas allocated to Surat during last three years and its corresponding demand in those years; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). Allocations of gas are made on the basis of availability. All natural gas produced onshore in Gujarat has been allocated to various consumers in Gujarat itself. An allocation of 0.3 million standard cubic metres of gas per day has been made to Gujarat Gas Company for distribution in Surat City. A further request for allocating 0.7 million standard cubic metres of gas per day has beed made.

[*English*]

Expulsion of Colombo Correspondent of Air From Sri Lanka

1177. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Colombo correspondent of All India Radio (AIR) was recently expelled from Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have lodged any protest with Sri Lanka in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to reinstate the AIR correspondent at Colombo?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Shri Karuppaswamy, All India Radio political correspondent in Colombo, was served a